

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:800
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN ORISSA
KUMUDINI PATNAIK

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government did not take up the excavation of exploratory wells for petroleum and natural gas as per the programme in Orissa and discontinued the activities after 1 or 2 failure point while in other places of the country it was continued after series of failures and led to success even exploring the 5th and 6th wells after the failure of the 4th ones;
- (b) whether there is any proposal of the Government to explore further points in Orissa coast of Bay of Bengal and Mahanadi river basin;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether the Central Government will take up further exploration in Orissa?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 800 for answer on 22.11.2001

(a) Exploratory drilling in Mahanadi Basin both onshore and offshore has been carried out by Oil India Ltd. since late 1970s. Despite drilling 15 exploratory wells, 4 onshore and 11 offshore, no commercial hydrocarbon discovery was made. The company has since surrendered the Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL).

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Contracts have been signed with national as well as private oil companies for eight exploration blocks in Mahanadi Basin, both offshore and onland, as also in its vicinity offshore under first and second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Out of these, seven blocks are in offshore and one in onland, the details of which are as under:-

Block Consortium Date of signing of Contract

MN-DWN-98/2	RIL-Niko	12-04-2000
MN-DWN-98/3	ONGC	12-04-2000
MN-OSN-97/3	ONGC-GAIL	12-04-2000
NEC-OSN-97/1	GAIL-OAO Gazprom	03-10-2000
NEC-OSN-97/2	RIL-Niko	12-04-2000
MN-OSN-2000/1	ONGC	17-07-2001
MN-OSN-2000/2	ONGC-GAIL-IOC-OIL	17-07-2001
MN-ONN-2000/1	ONGC-GAIL-IOC-OIL	17-07-2001

In addition, 2D seismic survey work in deep water area of this region has been completed for offering new blocks in the future rounds under NELP.

(d): Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.